

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/560,618  
Response to OA dated October 4, 2007

**REMARKS**

Claim 1 is amended in order to more clearly define the claimed invention. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is entered. It is believed that this amendment is fully responsive to the present Office Action. The allowability of Claims 2-5, and the allowance of Claims 6-15 is acknowledged. Claims 2 and 5 are now amended to be in independent form and to include all the limitations of the base claim.

Independent Claim 1, as amended, is to an LED illumination device having LED lamp modules coupled in a vertical direction. Each LED lamp module includes a base, a conductive circuit formed on the base, and a cover to be attached to the base to cover the conductive circuit. A coupling portion is formed on the base to be coupled with the cover of the LED lamp module located at the upper side thereof, and a mating coupling portion is formed on the cover to be coupled with the coupling portion of the base of the LED lamp module located at the lower side thereof out for coupling one LED lamp module to another LED lamp module in a vertical direction. Such an arrangement is not taught or suggested in the prior art.

In the Office Action, Claim 1 is rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claim 1 of U.S. Patent 6,994,455. The Office Action alleges that although the conflicting Claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because Claim 1 of the instant invention discloses LED drive circuitry mounted in the base and a cover coupled to the base so as to cover the circuitry. Although Claim 1 of the instant invention mentions a coupling portion formed on the base to be coupled with the cover and Claim

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1 of the '455 reference does not mention a coupling portion, the Office Action considers this limitation to be obvious since a connecting/coupling portion is necessary so as to connect the cover to the base, likewise with the mating coupling portion formed on the cover so as to connect it to the base.

It is respectfully submitted that '455 certainly does not disclose or suggest coupling one LED lamp module to another LED lamp module with use of mating coupling portions, in a vertical direction, as now claimed.

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to more clearly define the coupling of LED lamp modules in a vertical direction so as to better distinguish over the cited reference. Removal of the rejection is respectfully requested in view of the amendment and the above remarks.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Claim 1, as well as Claims 2-16 is believed to be patentable and in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

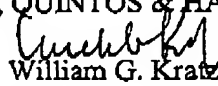
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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